

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed September 28, 2007. Claims 19-22 stand rejected and claims 1-18 and 23-30 are allowed. In this Amendment, claims 19-22 and 27 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner has rejected claims 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the Examiner asserts that claims 19-22 recite software *per se* because of the term "single stepping logic." Applicants respectfully disagree. The single stepping logic does not constitute software *per se*. For example, the present specification discusses one embodiment, in which the single stepping logic is a hardware implemented component contained in the processor (e.g., see Figure 1 and corresponding description).

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 19 has been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicant regards as the invention.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove his rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-18 and 23-30 are allowed.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 19, 2007



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